

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method for cultivation of filamentous fungi comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a medium for submerged culture comprising [[a]] rice particles ~~nutritional solid substrate~~ that receive~~[[s]]~~ said filamentous fungi, wherein the rice particles are husked, cooked, and sterilized before being added to said medium; and

(b) inoculating said medium with said filamentous fungi in a bioreactor to carry out fermentation wherein the mycelia of said filamentous fungi are attached to said rice particles ~~nutritionally solid substrate~~.

Claim 2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said filamentous fungi comprise *Monascus*, *Penicillium* or *Aspergillus*.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said medium in step (a) further comprises a nitrogen source, inorganic salts and trace elements.

Claim 7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises culturing said filamentous fungi prior to introduction into said medium.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the culturing step comprises:

- (1) inoculating said filamentous fungi from a stock culture to a new agar plate and incubating in an incubator for 5 to 7 days;
- (2) washing spores and mycelia grown on said plate with sterile water; and
- (3) cultivating for about 36 to 48 hours said spores and mycelia in a medium comprising [[a]] rice particles ~~nutritionally solid substrate~~ by shaking to form a culture.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bioreactor is a pneumatic bioreactor.

Claim 10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said pneumatic bioreactor is an air-lift bioreactor with a net draft tube.

Claim 11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising cultivating said filamentous fungi using the fed-batch process.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the medium of the batch comprises a nitrogen source and [[a]] rice particles ~~nutritionally solid substrate~~.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method for cultivation of the *Monascus* species comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing a medium for submerged culture comprising [[a]] rice grain particles that receives said *Monascus* species, wherein the rice particles are husked, cooked and sterilized before being added to said medium; and
- (b) inoculating said medium with said *Monascus* species in a bioreactor to carry out fermentation wherein the mycelia of said *Monascus* species are attached to said rice grain particles.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (b) further comprises culturing said *Monascus* species prior to introduction into said medium.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the culturing comprises:

- (1) inoculating said *Monascus* species from a stock culture to a new agar plate and incubating in an incubator for 5 to 7 days;
- (2) washing spores and mycelia grown on said plate with sterile water; and
- (3) cultivating for about 36 to 48 hours said spores and mycelia in a medium comprising [[a]] rice grain particles by shaking, to form a culture.

Claim 17. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said bioreactor is a pneumatic bioreactor.

Claim 18. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said pneumatic bioreactor is an air-lift bioreactor with a net draft tube.

Claim 19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising cultivating said *Monascus* species using the fed-batch process.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the medium of the batch comprises a nitrogen source and [[a]] rice grain particles.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) A method for producing metabolites from cultivation of the *Monascus* species comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a medium for submerged culture comprising [[a]] rice ~~grain~~ particles that receive[[s]] said *Monascus* species, wherein the rice particles are husked, cooked, and sterilized before being added to said medium; and

(b) inoculating said medium with said *Monascus* species in a bioreactor to carry out fermentation wherein the mycelia of said *Monascus* species are attached to said rice ~~grain~~ particles.

Claim 22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein step (b) further comprises culturing said *Monascus* species prior to introduction into said medium.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the culturing comprises:

- (1) inoculating said *Monascus* species from a stock culture to a new agar plate and incubating in an incubator for 5 to 7 days;
- (2) washing spores and mycelia grown on said plate with sterile water; and
- (3) cultivating for about 36 to 48 hours said spores and mycelia in a medium comprising [[a]] rice ~~grain~~ particles by shaking, to form a culture.

Claim 25. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said bioreactor is a pneumatic bioreactor.

Claim 26. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said pneumatic bioreactor is an air-lift bioreactor with a net draft tube.

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Claim 27. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising cultivating said *Monascus* species using the fed-batch process.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the medium of the batch comprises a nitrogen source and [[a]] rice grain particles.

Claim 29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Canceled)

Claim 31. (Canceled)